

## Reward offered for information on escaped Indiana inmates

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Mark Booher

Michigan City - Officials say new leads are being pursued in the search for a convicted killer and a convicted rapist who remain at large two days after escaping from the Indiana State Prison.

The search shifted from the nearby Michigan town of Grand Beach, where a manhunt went on Monday after one escaped prisoner - 48-year-old Charles Smith - was caught near the vacation home of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley. Smith is now back at the prison in Michigan City.

Those escapees still being sought are 46-year-old Mark Booher of New Castle, who was convicted in 1999 of an Indianapolis murder, and 45-year-old Lance Battreal, a convicted rapist from Rockport.



Lance Battreal

Authorities believe the three inmates escaped Sunday through underground tunnels. Prison staffers are replacing the broken bars and gates in the tunnels.

"It would have taken some careful planning on their part. It's not something that would have been done on a whim like trying to climb a chain link fence," said John Schrader, Department of Corrections.

"Sometimes the bad guys find a way," said Doug Garrison, DOC. "Our efforts will be directed at making sure that doesn't happen again."

Both escapees are considered violent offenders.

An anonymous tip line has been established for anyone with information about the escapees.

Individuals can call toll free to 1-800-78CRIME (1-800-782-7463) or can go online to [Wetip.com](http://Wetip.com) and click on "Submit a tip" near the top of the page.

If the information leads to their capture, the individual could receive up to \$5,000. All information received remains completely confidential and the individual reporting remains anonymous.